

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MC-02 ACDA-10
OMB-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:PWLANDE/MW

APPROVED BY NEA:PWLANDE

-----032144Z 061547 /12

O P 032117Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 128688

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING
ON JUNE 3:

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MADE ANY DECISION ABOUT EITHER
THE SALE OF PLANES TO PAKISTAN OR THE SALE OF PLANES TO
IRAN?

A: WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TO SELL THE A-7 TO PAKISTAN
WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR ARMS EXPORT POLICY. THE
DECISION WAS TAKEN WITHIN OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY.
SPECULATION THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED ON POLITICAL CON-
SIDERATIONS HAS NO SUBSTANCE. THE REASON FOR THIS DECISION
IS THAT THE SALE OF THE A-7 WOULD HAVE MEANT INTRODUCING A
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MAJOR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO SOUTH ASIA.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE IRANIAN DEAL?

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE YOU ON THE IRANIAN
ASPECT OF THE STORY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE CAPABILITY OF THE A-7? WHAT MAKES IT SOPHISTICATED? IS IT FAST...?

A: I THINK YOUR QUESTION IS BETTER ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Q: YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE DENIAL OF THESE PLANES WAS NOT BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS? ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE DENIAL OF THOSE AIRCRAFT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THAT AREA?

A: WELL, WHEN I SAY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, WHAT WE MEAN BY THAT IS THE REFERENCE IN THE ARTICLE TO THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND THE REFERENCES TO INDIA.

Q: YOU ARE DENYING THAT IT HAS ANY BEARING UPON THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA?

A: I AM SAYING THAT SPECULATION ALONG THE LINES THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAS NO SUBSTANCE.

A: THAT'S CORRECT.

Q: DENIAL OF THE INTRODUCTION OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SYSTEMS INTO AN AREA IS A POLITICAL DECISION.

A: THAT'S A CRITERIA OF OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY, TO INTRODUCE A SOPHISTICATED WEAPON INTO THAT SORT OF CONTEXT SUCH AS THE ONE THAT EXISTS IN SOUTH ASIA.
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Q: WHEN THE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE WENT TO PAKISTAN LAST AUGUST HE LINKED THE SALE OF THESE PLANES EITHER POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY WITH PAKISTAN'S INTENTION TO ACQUIRE A REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF PAKISTAN GOT THE REPROCESSING PLANT THEY HAD NO HOPE FOR THE PLANES. THE CONVERSE OF THAT IS THAT IF THEY RENOUNCE THE REPROCESSING PLANT THEY MIGHT GET THE PLANES. DID THEIR INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THAT DEAL HAVE ANY BEARING ON THIS DECISION?

A: I'LL REPEAT TO YOU THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR GLOBAL ARMS EXPORT POLICY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY SALES, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE128688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770199-0039
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770691/aaaadcfm.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fa84685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2282532
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOON BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON JUNE 3
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fa84685-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009